

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 18, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the present application. Claims 6-8, 12, 14, and 15 have been objected to.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has not acknowledged the drawings filed on August 19, 2003. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings in the next Office Action.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 15 has been amended as indicated above. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 112 rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 9-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,868,338 to Martin et al. ("Martin") in view of the Admitted Prior Art ("APA"), as shown in Figs. 9 and 10 of the present Application.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a draft of a ridge line portion at the upper case and a draft of a ridge line portion, where the ridge line portion extends in a vertical direction and is formed at an intersection of a front wall portion and an inclined portion of the case.

The Examiner acknowledges that Martin does not disclose the above draft, but maintains that the APA does. In particular, the Examiner maintains that draft β , as shown in Fig. 9 of the APA, discloses the claimed draft. However, draft β of Fig. 9 is not a draft of a ridge line portion. Rather, as disclosed on pg. 2 of the present Application, the drafts shown in Fig. 9 are formed at peripheral walls 66A and 68A. Such drafts do not disclose the claimed draft, but rather, are similar to the drafts β of peripheral walls 16A and 18A, which are discussed in the non-limiting embodiment on pg. 17 of the present Application, and shown in Fig. 5.

The ridge line L, as recited in claim 1 is also shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 5. Such ridge line L is formed where the front wall portion 12A and the inclined wall portion 30 intersect. As shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 7, the draft of the ridge line L is labeled as " α ". Figures 9, 10A and 10B of the APA fail to show the entire tape cartridge, and as such, fail to show the ridge line L. Thus, the APA fails to cure the deficient teachings of Martin.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claims 2-5, 9 and 10

Since claims 2-5, 9 and 10 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 11

Since claim 11 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, claim 11 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

D. Claim 13

Since claim 13 is dependent upon claim 11, claim 13 should be deemed patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8, 12, 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 6, 12 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Consequently, claims 6, 12 and 14 and their dependent claims should be allowed.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

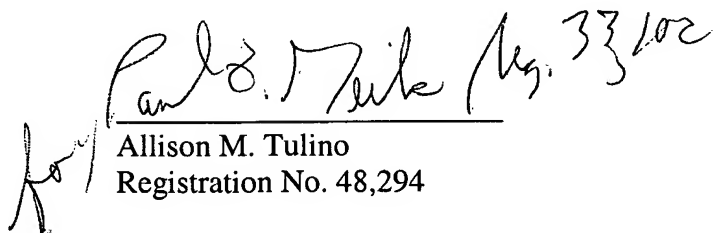
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